

# **Statewide Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Steering Committee Meeting**

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September 3rd, 2020  
2:00 PM Central Time

## **Members in Attendance**

Judge Scott Myren	Rachel Kippely	Charles Frieberg
Terry Dosch	Dr. Tom Stanage	Judge Sarah Morrison
Joanna Lawler	Andy Siebenborn	Jim Miskimins
Cynthia Mickelson	Annie Brokenleg	Liz Hassett
Tim Johns	Sara Sheppick	Judge Carmen Means

## **Members not in Attendance**

Cindy Heiberger  
Betty Oldenkamp  
Kristi Bunkers  
Judge Karen Jeffries  
Brian Mueller  
Chad Seidel  
Brad Howell  
Jess Jones  
Erin Srstka

## **Other Members in Attendance**

Samantha Reuer— USD Student  
Tamie McMeekin, Chef Courts Services Office in Rapid City  
Brooke Redburn, JDAI Coordinator- Codington County  
Amy Witt, Vice President Youth and Family Services LSS  
Kelsi Vinger, JDAI Coordinator- Brown County  
Jamie Gravett, Director of Minnehaha County JDC  
Lisa Berens, Placement Coordinator for Minnehaha County  
Karlee Chapin, Brookings County JDAI Coordinator, Diversion Coordinator in Brookings  
Erinn Thomas, Teen Director at Brookings Boys and Girls Club  
Louis Canfield, Director of Operation Boys and Girls Club Watertown  
Greg Sattizahn, State Court Administrators Office

## **Meeting Notes:**

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Judge Scott Myren called the meeting to order. Annie gave a summary of what has happened since the last meeting which includes: a major reduction in detention during

COVID in original JDAI sites, large increase in youth that have been diverted in all sites except for those who have been newly implemented, a new JDAI site added in Brookings County, and receiving two grants from the Casey foundation. The grants received include one for Positive Youth Development training throughout the state and another for the Rapid City Spring Conference. The Positive Youth Development training will include a two-day curriculum that focuses on race equity, brain development, youth and family engagement and shifting mindsets from fixed to growth. The next training will take place in Mitchell in September of 2020.

Chuck discussed Annie's new title of Diversion State Coordinator. With this title change, Annie will be helping to set up new diversion sites throughout the state by connecting them with existing diversion sites, assisting in data tracking and getting the diversion program approved by the courts. Despite the title change, Annie will still be doing JDAI coordination. Following this, the meeting members each introduced themselves and talked about a positive thing that has come out of the pandemic.

## **Partnering with the Council for Juvenile Services to expand JDAI and Diversion in SD**

Annie asked to hear an update from each of the sites on the developments that have been made throughout the past year in regards to both JDAI and diversion expansion.

### **Davison County**

Jim Miskimins gave the update on Davison County. In Davison County, they are currently only using baseline court diversions and have recently hired coordinator Katie as their JDAI coordinator who used to be a juvenile corrections officer and is currently a high school and middle school cross country coach at Mitchell schools which allows her to communicate with the young people in the community. In Davison County, they have recently implemented a multitiered approach to conditional release which involves an evening reporting center and reception center which all was implemented at a very low cost to the County and the community. Davison County is also communicating with government leaders to get the word out into the community to let them know what they are trying to help kids. 59 referrals have been diverted in Davison County and of those 59, 56 successfully completed diversion, which is a 95% success rate. Due to the successful diversions, Davison County is estimated to receive \$14,000 in reimbursements from the state for this year. In July they saved \$9,290 and in June it was just over \$2,000 by keeping youth in the community vs. transporting to Sioux Falls.

### **Brown County**

Kelsi Vinger gave the update for Brown County. Brown County has created a juvenile diversions program during the first year of being an active site and ultimately increased diversion by 110% and had a diversion success rate of 76%. A total of 88 RAI's conducted and of these 88, 9 scored for secure detention, 18 scored for alternative detention and 61 scored to be released. Of the 18 who scored for alternative detentions, only 9 were placed in alternative. Of the 61 who scored to be released, 32 were ultimately not. Brown County has also recently made changes to help keep electronic monitoring from over use and a as a driver of youth into detention.

### **Codington County**

Brooke Reidburn gave the update for Codington County. In 2019 Codington County's Teen Court got 21 referrals and since August there has been a 390% increase in referrals.

Judge Carmen Means said 31 RAIS conducted from Jan-Aug and of these 31, 16 scored for secure detention, 7 scored for alternatives, and 6 scored for conditional release. Codington County ultimately released 12 individuals on a conditional release. Some of the conditional release options include electronic monitoring, house arrest and an evening reporting center at the boys and girls club that is currently in the process.

### **Brookings County**

Karlee Chapin gave the update on Brookings County. Karlee just stepped into her role as the JDAI coordinator in Brookings County on August 10th. She has a meeting with the Judge on Tuesday to talk about conditional release. Karlee is working on developing another diversion option in Brookings that will include case management to complement their teen court program.

### **Where to Expand to Next**

Annie asked the individuals in the meeting what Counties they think they should expand to next. Annie presented Hughes County has had the highest number of RAIS's conducted this year, with Yankton and Lawrence County having the next highest. Dr. Stanage said he believes Yankton County would benefit from having a JDAI site and that Judge Gering has shown interest. Terry Dosch said he would be willing to help with getting JDAI implemented in Hughes County. Chuck agreed it may be the right time to address JDAI in Hughes County. Ultimately the group decided on considering implementing sites in Yankton and Hughes County.

### **Spring Juvenile Justice Conference**

The conference will be held in Rapid City so that the conference can highlight work done in Rapid City and provide opportunities for offsite learning. Annie asked the meeting members about what topics they may want to hear about at the conference. Judge Carmen Means stated that she would like to hear something on racial and ethnic disparities and Annie agreed that this is an area we need to do better in. Jim Miskimins stated that he would like to hear something on evidence based internet programming that is available to assist young people who make poor choices. Tamie McMeekin stated that she would like a short session to talk about the innovative ways that people use to expand their services and sustain changes made during COVID. Tamie McMeekin also suggested a session on the 8 core principles of JDAI. Annie then suggested that the stakeholders attend a breakfast before the conference with new coordinators and be available to answer any questions that they may have. Terry Dosch liked this idea and stated that people at the local level will take the opportunity to consult about issues and how to overcome them if they are given the opportunity. Annie then concluded the conversation by asking the meeting members to let her know if they come up with anything else they want on the agenda and to also email her with any conflicting dates in March, April or May.

## **Data Updates**

Annie described the recent detention data describing there has been drastic decreases in detention in Minnehaha (35% decrease) and Pennington County (28% decrease) because of COVID-19. Although Pennington and Minnehaha County have had decreases, the smaller counties have had a slight increase in detention. Annie discussed there has been a reduction in overrides across almost all intake centers with Minnehaha County being under 20% when in the previous year, they were at 34%.

Jamie Gravett discussed what Minnehaha County has been doing differently since the pandemic. He started by saying that in 2019 there was an unusually high number of kids coming into detention but the numbers have since lowered in 2020. Minnehaha County wants to see around 15 kids, or lower, a year being put into detention and the numbers were very close to that in 2020. Minnehaha County has worked with the Judge in regards to warrants. Most warrants that are being issued now are PR warrants and ultimately most juveniles are getting a three-day turnaround for court. Minnehaha County has spoken with intake officers to make sure they think about the situation presenting itself and don't make unnecessary overrides.

Liz Hassett discussed what Pennington County has been doing during the pandemic to decrease detention. When comparing quarter 2 in 2019 to quarter 2 in 2020, which is normal the highest population time in Pennington County, the number of kids held in detention went down by 26%. Other decreases during quarter 2 include; the number of probation violations going down by 63% and court orders going down by 65%. There has been an increase in felony person and property, as well as drug and misdemeanor charges, likely due to kids being out of school and bored. Although there was this increase, it wasn't reflected in Pennington County's juvenile population due to the fact that a lot more kids are facing adult transfers than usual, and alternatives are being utilized. The number of override ups in Pennington County have also decreased which means that they are doing a lot better at trusting the RAI. There has also been a decrease in the number of RAI's completed which means that law enforcement is really thinking about which kids they come into contact with and refer to detention. Pennington County is in the process of preparing for a new judge.

Judge Sarah Morrison added Pennington County is currently having a lot of the same conversations as new sites because they have been an active site for 10 years and they want to make sure that the policies match their practices. Judge Morrison mentioned that Pennington County is now going to have one judge for Abuse and Neglect cases and Juvenile court which will help to assist agencies at communicating better and allow the judge to see overlap between children who are being neglected and those who end up in the juvenile system.

Annie then drew the conversation to a close by stating that the key takeaways from this discussion are that case processing and collaboration play a big role in lowering numbers.

## **Conclusion**

Judge Myren adjourned the meeting and reminded those in attendance that Annie is expecting emails regarding the Rapid City Conference.